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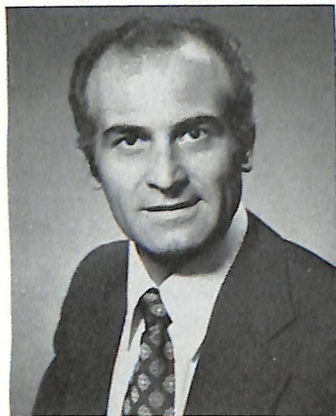


Children who benefited from the 1983 Istanbul Youth Camp Program

(see page 8 for story)

CHRISTMAS: MORE THAN A CHILD IN A MANGER

- M. B. Janbazian



M. B. Janbazian

It is Christmas time again, and everything around us tells the story of the birth of Jesus. Greeting cards, posters, decorations, carols and celebrations all point to the Child in the manger. This is only natural, appropriate, necessary and good. We have to be careful, however. At this festive season, we should not be contented with seeing only a babe in a manger. Nor should we be satisfied with only a shallow sentimentality and a fleeting feeling of benevolence that seem to characterize the mood of a good many people at this season. If that is all we see and feel, then we have missed the real meaning and joy of the Christmas event.

In the Gospel of John, we find one of the shortest and most enlightening Christmas stories ever written. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16. Another revealing reference to the Christmas event, though indirect, is found in the Apostle Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." II Cor. 8:9

These biblical testimonies clearly indicate that the full content of the Christmas event includes not only the fact that Jesus was born, but also two eternal truths:

- that the Babe in the manger is no

other person than the only begotten Son of God, the most precious gift God could give to assure our salvation and eternal life; that Jesus enjoyed dignity and glory in His pre-earthly existence, yet out of His infinite love, He consented to be born as a poor child and live a life of poverty and suffering and ultimately die on a cross to save us from spiritual impoverishment and grant us a life in peace with God and with our fellowmen.

How important, therefore, that in and through the Babe in the manger, we see the truth of God's love revealed in Christ's life burned out in suffering and sacrifice for our sake.

Our awareness of this truth, however, should inspire us with a fathomless sense of gratitude of God, and we should be compelled to ask, in the words of the Psalmist, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Psalm 116:12. In his well-known hymn of thanksgiving, Joseph Addison aptly states, "For, Oh, Eternity's Too Short to Utter All Thy Praise." Could there be a way in which we can thank God adequately for giving us His only begotten Son? The answer to this question is evidenced in the Apostle Paul's exhortation, "Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God." Romans 12:2. This is a gesture of gratitude we all can and should make. In thankful gratitude we can and should offer to God our body to be the dwelling place of His Spirit; our lips to witness His love; our hands to work for His Kingdom, and our feet to take us "into all the world and preach the Gospel to all Creation."

Our gratitude to Christ for what He did for us at Christmas, should also motivate us to reach out and cheerfully help those who are in spiritual and physical poverty. Christ assures that all such help given by us is, in fact, given to Him. "Inasmuch as you did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40. William

Barclay, in his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, relates a story which beautifully illustrates this truth. "Martin of Tours was a Roman soldier, and a Christian. One cold winter day, as he was entering a city, a beggar stopped him and asked him for alms. Martin had no money; but the beggar was blue and shivering with cold, and Martin gave what he had. He took off his soldier's coat, worn and frayed as it was, cut it in two and gave half of it to the beggar. That night he had a dream. In it he saw the heavenly places and all the angels and Jesus in the midst of them; and Jesus was wearing half of a Roman soldier's cloak. One of the angels said to Him, 'Master, why are you wearing that battered old cloak? Who gave it to you?' And Jesus answered softly, 'My servant Martin gave it to me.'"

When we see God's precious gift of love in the Babe of the manger, and when in loving gratitude for all Christ has done for us we rededicate ourselves to God and to the service of His children, then we will indeed know the real significance and the lasting joy of Christmas.

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AMAA 64TH ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES 65 YEARS OF MISSIONS MINISTRY

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, 1983, at the First Armenian Church of Belmont, Mass. by AMAA President, Dr. George Bezirgianian. Those attending the Annual Meeting included AMAA members, life members, delegates of the AMAA, Missions Committees and Chapters, representatives of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America as well as pastors and lay representatives of Armenian Evangelical Churches from all parts of the U.S. and Canada. Among the delegates from Canada were: The Rev. and Mrs. Ardashes Kerabian; the Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian; the Rev. Hovhannes Agnerian and Dr. George Ajemian. The California delegates included: Mrs. Alice Haig, West Coast Vice President of the Association; the Rev. Harry Missirlian, the newly appointed Minister to the AEUNA; Mrs. Elizabeth Agbalian, AMAA Board member; Mr. Mihran Agbalian; the Rev. Norair Melidonian, the Rev. Apraham Chaparian; the Rev. Roger Minassian; Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, West Coast Regional Director of the AMAA; and Mrs. Joyce Philibosian Stein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation and an ex officio of the Board of Directors of the AMAA.

In his message to the delegates and the assembly, Dr. Bezirgianian highlighted the important developments in the past year's life of the Association and mentioned the challenges that are faced in the mission field. Dr. Bezirgianian said, "Several important challenges face us. We must preserve our rich Armenian language, culture and evangelical heritage. We need more emphasis on evangelism and



AMAA President, Dr. George Bezirgianian, addressing members and friends of the Association at the 64th Annual Meeting Banquet.

mission work overseas as well as in the United States. We must reaffirm our commitment to education through continued scholarship aid to university and seminary students and through renewed support of Haigazian College." He concluded his remarks saying, "I feel confident that we will be able to tackle these and any other challenges; but our success will, as always, depend on the help and full reciprocal cooperation which we will receive from our members, churches, unions, boards, officers, committees, and office staff, and on the blessing of the Lord."

The Treasurer of the Association, Mr. Edward Janjigian, reported an excess of \$18,542.00 over expenditure as well as a substantial increase in the consolidated net worth of the

The Inspirational Corner

CHE JESUS

Editors' Note: This is an excerpt from a prayer which appeared as an anonymous flyer in an industrial neighborhood in the City of Cordoba, Argentina, during the Christmas Season in 1970. It was translated by Joyce Hill and published in the December 1980 issue of A.D. Che is an Argentine salutation that has no precise English equivalent. The word is used by close friends and co-workers in a common cause. It implies friendship, fellowship, solidarity and commitment.

Che Jesus,
They told me that you come back to be born every Christmas.
Man, you're crazy!
Two thousand years ago you came and we nailed you to a tree, but you insist...
Don't you realize that every day we continue to crucify you?
After all, weren't you the one who said,
"Whatever you do to any of those poor ones you do it to me?"
And can't you see what we are doing to you?

And yet, you want to come anyway?
I don't know but what with this stubborn gesture of coming

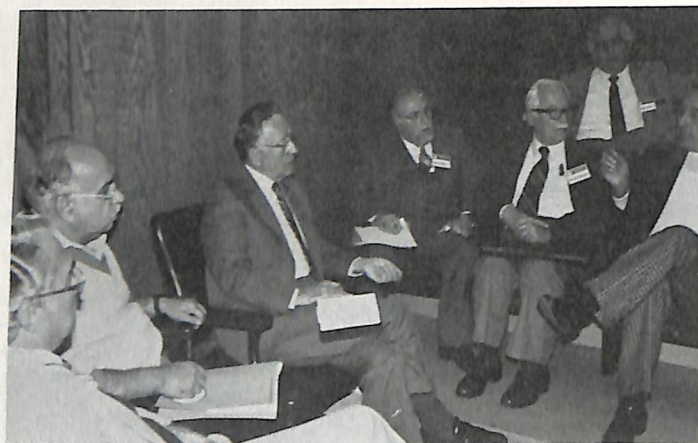
back every Christmas you are trying to tell us something.

That the revolution that all proclaim begins first of all in each one's heart,
That it doesn't mean only changing structures but changing selfishness for love,
That we have to stop being wolves and return to being brothers and sisters,
That we stop losing time in criticizing and begin to work seriously for individual conversion and social change that will give to all the possibility of having bread, education, freedom, and dignity.
That you have a message that's called the Gospel,
And a Church, and that's us -
A Church that wants to be servant of all.
A Church that knows that because God became man one Christmas there is no other way to love God but to love all people.

If that's the way it is, Jesus, come to my house this Christmas.
Come to my country,
Come to the world of men and women.
And first of all, come to my heart.



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Armenian Evangelical ministers taking time out from the Annual Meeting activities for a time of sharing and fellowship.

Association from \$9,899,713 to \$11,433,894 during the 1982-83 fiscal year. Mr. Janjigian also reported that for fiscal 1983-84, the annual budget of the Association will be \$1,354,020 as compared to \$1,248,995 of the previous year.

Mrs. Marie Nahigian of Belmont, Mass., the long-time and devoted Recording Secretary of the Association, reported on the main resolutions and actions of the Board of Directors during the past year. In concluding her report she said, "To be a true Christian is to have a sense of mission and to transmit that feeling to others. As Christians, we are called upon to be missionaries. How can we identify ourselves as missionaries? One worthy way is to give the AMAA our wholehearted and deserved support."

The reports of the Executive Director, Dr. G.H. Chopourian, the Field Director, Mr. M.B. Janbazian, the West Coast Regional Director, Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, Committee Chairmen and Chapter delegates highlighted the main areas of growth in the Missions Outreach of the Association, which now includes over 35 different evangelistic, educational, social service and missionary projects in 13 countries. The reports presented to the assembly pointed to an increasing effort, on behalf of the AMAA, to meet the growing needs of the Armenian Community of North America.

Following the committee reports, on behalf of Archie Cherkezian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Kevork Paravazian announced the results of the balloting of the election to the Board of Directors as follows: Edward Janjigian; John Keuhnelian, M.D.; Elida Telfeyan; Daniel Abdulian, M.D.; the Rev. Karl V. Avakian and Diane DeMirjian, elected to serve on the 21-member Board of the Association as the Class of 1983.



AMAA members and friends at the successful 64th Annual Meeting Banquet.

The Annual Meeting was preceded by an inspiring AMAA Sunday Worship Service at the host church. The service was led by the Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Pastor of the First Armenian Church. The Rev. Norair Melidonian, Pastor of the Armenian Cilica Congregational Church, Pasadena, Calif., preached in Armenian and the Rev. Hartunian delivered the main sermon in English. Preaching on the theme, "The Narcotic of Sanctity," the Rev. Hartunian reflected on the sin of making holy of material things and in a moving delivery underscored the holiness of life. He concluded his homily by the following moving appeal:

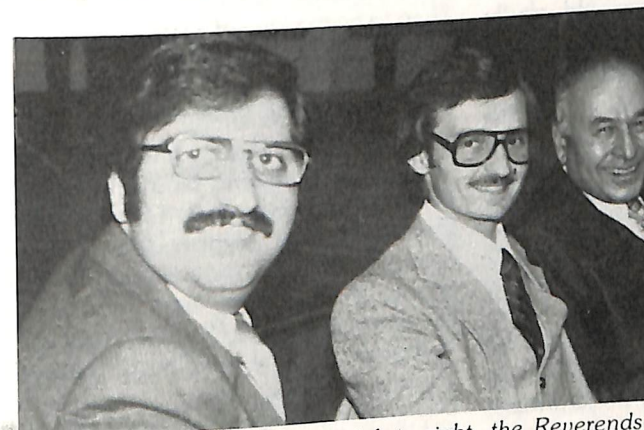
We must help create a civilization in which children rejoice because Jesus Christ loves them and is coming back to get them into His kingdom! That is what the AMAA is doing. It has emphasized the sanctity of the ignorant, the homeless, the sick. And in so doing, it has set an example for all of us. Through the AMAA we can love children as Jesus loved them. And we can love the needy as Jesus loved them. And in so loving, we can claim rightly that 'the Spirit of the Lord is upon us!'

The 64th Annual Meeting was also marked with a banquet on Saturday evening, October 15, 1983 at the Nahigian Hall of the First Armenian Church. The banquet, a traditional Annual Meeting-related activity, which was organized by the Benevolence Committee of the First Armenian Church, was attended by more than 200 persons, including out-of-state guests, ministers and past officers of the AMAA. Mr. Harry Dulgarian, the Treasurer of the First Armenian Church, acted as the Master of Ceremonies of the evening, at which time the President, Dr. George Bezirgianian, and seven outgoing Board members were honored with service plaques. The Rev. Dr. Dale Bishop, Middle Eastern Secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries, was the Keynote Speaker of the evening. Dr. Bishop reflected on his most recent experiences in Lebanon and delivered an inspiring talk based on Matthew 16:13-20. He ended his message saying, "Beyond the Lebanon of today there is a better future, and part of our mission is to work together as we seek to support institutions that provide hope for people in Lebanon, Syria and, yes, even Turkey." Special music for the evening was provided by Mr. David Bakamjian, cellist, and his wife, Gwendolyn Mok, accompanying him on the piano.

On Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, the Board of Directors of the Association met at the First Armenian Church and discussed a large variety of agenda items. A large number of important resolutions and actions were taken at the two-day long Board meeting which was also attended by pastors and officers of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.



AMAA Executive Director, Dr. G.H. Chopourian, right, presenting service plaque to President, Dr. George Bezirgianian, in appreciation of his leadership during the past fiscal year.



Greater Boston Area ministers, left to right, the Reverends Ron Toumassian, John Morkosian and Vartan Hartunian.

Following the 64th Annual Meeting activities, the active ministers of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America attended a special conference on evangelism at the Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass. from October 17-19. This was the third Ministers' Conference which was organized by the AMAA for the Armenian Evangelical active pastors in North America. The Conference, which was led by highly-qualified and well-known speakers, focused on the subject of "Evangelism Ministry of Local Churches" and provided a unique time of edification and learning to all the participants. As a participating pastor so aptly put it, "We had a mountain top experience. Our spirit was renewed, minds illumined, and we had a treasure of food for thought to digest and apply to our everyday life and the life of our church."

The 64th Annual Meeting and related activities provided memorable opportunities of fellowship, inspiration and renewal to all the participants. Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Executive Director of the Association, certainly expressed the feelings of all the participants when he said, "Throughout the weekend, our hearts were filled with thanksgiving, joy and celebration at the 65th year of Missions Ministry of the AMAA. God has really blessed the work of this organization. But there are many challenges that face us here in the U.S. and overseas. We pray that God will continue to bless us and lead us as we move ahead in our service to our people and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

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For many Armenian youngsters living in the Middle East today, an education is not only essential for their growth, but also for the propagation and perpetuation of their Armenian heritage. Most of them, in these past years, have been living with uncertainty, fear and death.

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(no. of children) _____

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☐ Please send me more information
☐ I cannot become a sponsor right now, but I enclose a special Contribution of \$_____ to assist in the education of underprivileged children.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

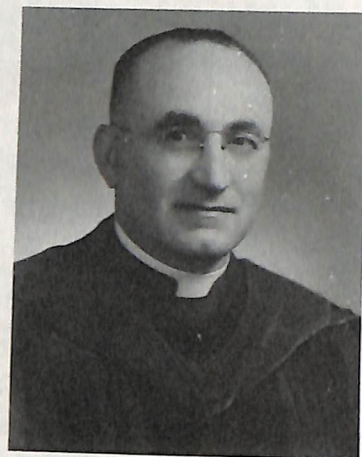
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AMAA 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652



A VALIANT VETERAN SOLDIER OF THE CROSS

— Ephronia Mugar, R.N.



The Rev. Youhanna Mugar

Editors' note: This year, the year nineteen hundred and eighty three, (1983) marks the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUHANNA'S MINISTRY. On the occasion of this milestone, we are happy to publish this tribute to him, written by his wife, on special request. The Board of Directors join his daughter, Grace Bynum and her husband, Dr. David Bynum, and their two sons, Tavor and Evan, (2) his daughter, Joyce Mesrobian, and her husband, Dr. Armen Z. Mesrobian, and their daughter, Donna Suzzanne; (3) his son, Haig Jayson Mugar, and his wife, Ginger Mugar, and their daughter, Charmion, and son Brandon; (4) and his devoted and charming wife, Ephronia, to extend grateful congratulations to Youhanna for an exemplary Ministry and sound stewardship of evangelism to uphold God's Kingdom.

To survive **Four Brutal Massacres** was indeed a miracle of miracles.

In the darkest and bloodiest history of the Armenian nation, when more than one and a half million innocent Armenians, children, elderly and all, were taken out of their homes and driven on foot to the distant and cruelly hot scorching deserts of **Der Zore** to be slaughtered in various, more inhuman ways than could be imagined, this youngster also with his family happened to be in the midst of them.

The story of this boy's journey to his miraculous deliverance from that hell on earth was long and arduous. His saintly Christian mother, Mihranoush's incessant and most earnest prayers for his protection must have put **all the forces of Heaven on alert at all times** to watch over him. Truly, the Lord's watchful eyes were constantly shielding him

from all the snares of the Devil. God's great plan for him was, *not to die there, but to be saved, grow up, and destined to become one of His most ardent and consecrated workers in His vineyard.* His mission was to proclaim the glorious Gospel of God's greatest love to humanity, manifested in the death on the cross of **His only begotten son, Jesus Christ.**

After finishing his college (Aleppo College, Aleppo, Syria) studies with fine grades and winning the title of *the athlete of the year* for two consecutive years, he had to further his education to become a minister. This needed finances, which he did not have. So, he wrote a letter to a wealthy great uncle of his in America and asked him for help. The answer came promptly, stating that he would gladly finance his total education if he was willing to take up medicine, law, engineering, or anything else he wished to study, except Theology. *There would be not a penny of help to be expected from him if he chose Ministry.* His reason for so writing was clear. He said *he did not want him to go through life always wanting, always needing, and most of the time not having enough means to make ends meet.*

From a human point of view, the uncle was right. He was a successful business man, and all he knew and worked for in his life was to make money. And, alas, evidently he had no conception of the Lord's promise, to provide and supply all the needs of His children, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus. What a tempting situation the old Devil was presenting to this young man through this strange proposal. Satan surely never takes off from luring God's children into his snare, tempting them with outwardly glamors for the eyes but, often inwardly, traps for the souls. But praise the Lord for His unexplainable love and devotion with which He fills the hearts of those who are His own. The blessed conviction of the Holy Spirit also leads and compels them to take up their cross and follow Him and in so doing, find abounding joy and peace.

He wrote back and thanked his uncle for his kind and generous promise, and told him also that he could not accept his offer because his mind was already made up many years ago. It was a **Divine calling from God** and almost a **covenant made between his God and Him.** He was going to enter the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, without a penny, trusting in the Lord to provide for him.

Through great financial struggles, working in school, preaching in different churches at weekends, praise the Lord, his faith was answered, and God saw that his need was fulfilled throughout his education. In all these fifty long years in His service, many a time when the need was great and the means so limited, never a day have I heard from him a word of regret or complaint for choosing this road of life to live, for he trusted in the Lord at all times; and, therefore, God saw that somehow, somehow our need was met. I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold, I'd rather be His than have riches untold, I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands,

I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand Than to be the king of a vast domain Or be held in sin's dread sway; I'd rather have Jesus than anything This world affords to-day.

During his ministry, the Holy Spirit helped him greatly to be instrumental in building two churches for His glory. One was built in Cyprus, the other was built in Massachusetts. Only heaven knows the amount and intensity of *Prayers, Pleadings, Planning* and Pains that went into the building of these two churches. Campaigning for money to build them was another, no easy, task. He went to many people to ask for contributions and even all the way to California to raise money. Who could have been able to count the number of those Church Council and Building Committee meetings, day and night, where their members tried to solve the numerous arising problems from the building of these structures?

The first one was built in Nicosia, the capital city of that beautiful Island of Cyprus, where he pastored for fourteen years. Even after so many years, it is still so vivid in my memory how exhilarated the whole congregation was on that blissful Sunday, when God's glory had filled the church and the worship service was being held for the first time in the new sanctuary after its completion. Heaven's choir surely must have taken time off to rest from their continuous songs of praises to Him on the throne, because the heart-pouring and joyous thanksgiving songs of praises to God sung at that unforgettable service was enough sacred music to fill heaven and earth.

The second one, The First Armenian Evangelical Church, was built in Belmont, Massachusetts, a beautiful church,

(continued on page 8)

AMAA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED AT SPECIAL RECEPTIONS

One of the most expanding aspects of the work of the Armenian Missionary Association of America is the Students' Scholarship Program through which over \$152,000 were allocated as financial assistance to deserving university students for the current 1983-84 academic year. Seventy-five of the 185 beneficiaries of this all-time high AMAA scholarship provision were recognized at three separate receptions held simultaneously in Los Angeles, Calif.; Boston, Mass. and Paramus, N.J. on Sunday, September 11, 1983.

The reception for the Southern California recipients was held in the Fireside Room of the United Armenian Congregational Church following the morning worship service. The reception was graciously organized by the UACC Missions Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Stepan Merjanian. Approximately 40 students, as well as AMAA Board members, special guests and ministers of the local Armenian Evangelical Churches attended. AMAA Vice President, Mrs. Alice Haig, conducted the program with AMAA's West Coast Regional Director, Dr. Pepronia Merjanian. After the scholarship awards were presented, Miss Jacqueline Janbazian, Miss Sela Moursalian and Mr. Vatche Terzian expressed appreciation to the AMAA on behalf of the recipients and pledged to do their best, in turn, to help others. In closing, Dr. Verne Fletcher, the newly-appointed President of AMAA-supported Haigazian College of Beirut, Lebanon, offered special words of blessings followed by the benediction.

Approximately 17 recipients from the New York/New Jersey area attended the reception at the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, N.J. The function which was organized by Mrs. Gladys Keuhnelian, was also attended by a number of parents, Board members, as well as benefactors of scholarship funds. After Dr. John Keuhnelian, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, welcomed those in attendance, the scholarship awards were presented to the recipients by the scholarship funders: Dr. and Mrs. Sarkis Telfeyan representing the *Telfeyan Evangelical Fund*; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hekemian and Mrs. Ann Krikor-



Scholarship Committee Chairman, Dr. John Keuhnelian, presenting scholarship award to James Kouzoukian.



Mr. Robert Hekemian, AMAA Vice President and benefactor of the Hekemian Family Trust Fund, presenting scholarship check to Aram Ashkarian.

ian representing the *S. & E. Hekemian Family Trust Fund*; Dr. and Mrs. John G. Keuhnelian representing the *Dr. Jacob Hekimian Loan Fund*; Mr. and Mrs. George Philibosian representing the *George & Alice Philibosian Family Endowment Fund*.

On behalf of the recipients, Miss Carol Bogossian and Mr. Matthew McKinnon, both of New Jersey, thanked the AMAA and assured the donors that they will repay the help extended to them by helping others through the Association. The program ended with prayer by the Rev. Karl Avakian, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus.

The third AMAA Scholarship Reception was held at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, Mass. and was attended by approximately 15 recipients and friends of the AMAA. The reception was organized by Mrs. Rachel Dohanian, who also led the program. Dr. Edward Karian, AMAA Board Member, presented the awards to the recipients. On behalf of the recipients, Miss Aline Karaguezian extended appreciation to the AMAA and promised to support the work of the Association. The Rev. Ron Tovmassian closed the program with prayer.

As in previous years, the scholarship assistance was given by way of grants and interest-free loans provided by the following Trust and Endowment Funds: Stephen Philibosian Endowment Fund (100 students), Hekemian Family Trust (41), Augustine & Vergine Badeer Fund (13), Dr. Jacob Hekimian Medical

Loan Fund (11), General Theological Funds (8), John Kazanjian Fund (8), Telfeyan Evangelical Fund (6), Dicran M. & Flora Sarkisian Fund (5), Saprichian Endowment Fund (4), Dr. James Mouradian Medical Scholarship Fund (4), George & Alice Philibosian (3), Angele Bedrossian Hancock (3), Arthur Dadian Education Fund (3), Jedian Educational Fund (3), Marie & Raymond Nahigian Fund (2), Ann Halford Memorial Scholarship Fund (1), Hrag Salibian Loan Fund (1), and Ephronia Yaghsizian Loan Fund (1).

Among this year's beneficiaries of the Scholarship Program were 17 seminary students who are preparing for Christian ministry.

The Annual Recognition Receptions for AMAA scholarship recipients provide gratification and encouragement to both benefactors and beneficiaries. As the dedicated Chairman of the AMAA Scholarship Committee, Dr. John Keuhnelian, so aptly put it, "It is a most rewarding experience to meet and get acquainted with our scholarship recipients, all of whom are deserving, ambitious and intelligent aspirants of higher education."

Scholarship Application Forms for the 1984-85 school year will be released as of January 1, 1984. Requests for the forms must be made in writing and by the applicants themselves, and completed Application Forms must reach the AMAA Headquarters before June 1 in order to qualify for Committee consideration.

FAITHFUL YOUTH MINISTRY IN ISTANBUL

We praise God for our Istanbul Youth Ministry which continues to serve the social, physical and spiritual needs of many children and youth in Turkey. The highlight of this important Missions outreach is now the Touzla Camp where each year approximately 120 children are sent and are taken care of during school vacation. Under the leadership of Hrant Dink, the children participate in the regular camp program as well as in cultural and Christian educational activities.

We are also thankful to God for other fruitful mission projects in Turkey such as the evangelistic endeavors of Mr. Missak Gunay, who distributes Bibles and tracts and publishes Christian literature, including a monthly booklet entitled, "The Way of Love."



Grace before each meal at the camp. Mr. Hrant Dink, the Youth Camp Leader, appears at the right.



Women workers doing the camp laundry.



Learning hymns, Sharagans and Bible stories are an integral part of the Youth Camp Program.



Children who benefited from the 1983 Camp Program.

A VALIANT VETERAN SOLDIER OF THE CROSS (continued from page 6)

which accommodates a good-sized congregation. On that very special Sunday, the day of its dedication to God, the church was filled to its full capacity, and many more people were standing outside, too. This man of God, the church's pastor, The Rev. Dr. Youhanan (Mugrditchian) Mugar, then preached therein a real masterpiece sermon, which was so very appropriate for the occasion. The text of his sermon was: "Holiness Becometh Thine House, O Lord, for ever." Psalm 93:5. Praise the Lord, what a sermon it was. At the end of the service, there were very few dry eyes left within the church.

Way back in Larnaca, Cyprus, three prominent ministers took part in his ordination. What a privilege it was for him to have one of the three ministers be the unique and much-loved by so many, the late Rev. Siragan Aghbabian

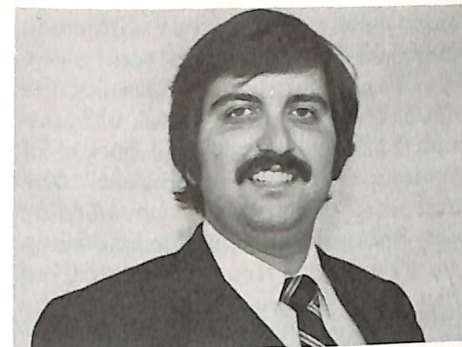
of the Emmanuel Church of Aleppo, Syria. The second minister was the Rev. C. Caskey, a saintly Christian American missionary, who, with his family, worked in Cyprus for many years. The third minister was the Rev. W. Lytle, a Scotch preacher, who was invited for this special occasion to come to Larnaca from Antioch, Syria. The Rev. W. Lytle, in his charge to the newly-ordained minister, said the following: "Dear Brother, never, never have politics in your ministry." Thank God, to this he remained faithful all through his ministry. Politics have no place in the discipleship of Christ, and how well it will be, if clergy of all churches would adopt this *Christian principle, no politics*, in the life of their ministry.

During his ministry, it gave him much joy to baptize many children in his churches; but his greatest happiness

was to see three of these baptized children, in the church of Larnaca, Cyprus, grow up and follow in his footsteps, becoming ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The first was The Rev. Vartkes M. Kassouni, the present minister of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, Calif.; second, The Rev. Levon Yergatian, now in Limassol, Cyprus; and third, The Rev. Levon Melkonian, now in California. Also, one of the youth of his Larnaca Church became the Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian, the present Executive Director of the A.M.A.A.

For all these years of labor in *His Field*, eternity alone will be able to reveal the harvest of uncountable blessings of God he has brought to the souls of men, untiringly sowing the seeds of free salvation of God's grace into their hearts.

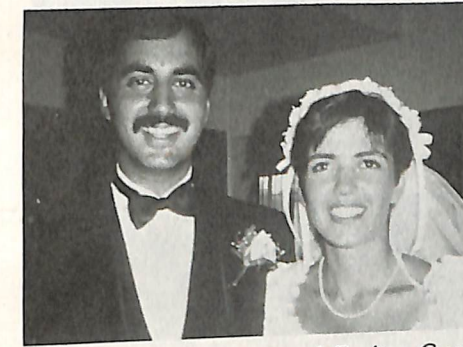
A FINE HARVEST OF AMAA ASSISTED THEOLOGICAL GRADUATES



The Rev. Ron Tovmassian

With the close of the 1982-83 academic year, three theological students who received generous AMAA scholarships while in seminary, graduated and entered the Christian ministry. This fine harvest of young ministers include Ronald Tovmassian of Downey, Calif.; Michael Khandjian of Miami, Florida and Ara Guekguezian of Fresno, Calif.

Ronald Tovmassian, son of the Rev. Edward and Mrs. Arousiag Tovmassian of Downey, Ca., graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Having accepted the call to serve as the Pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, Mass., Ronald was ordained into Christian Ministry on August 28, 1983, at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, Calif. Soon after



Bride and Groom Ara and Evelina Guekguezian.

his ordination, Ronald, along with his wife Renee, left for Boston and assumed his duties as the Pastor of the Watertown Church. Ronald's Installation Service was held on Sunday, October 16, following the 64th Annual Meeting of the AMAA.

Michael Khandjian graduated from the Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Miss. with a Master of Divinity degree. Having accepted a call for pastoral ministry, Michael was ordained and installed as the Assistant Minister of the Cutler Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Miss. on Sunday, August 28, 1983. Michael is the son of Mr. Leo and Mrs. Marie Khandjian of Miami, Florida, who are faithful supporters of the AMAA.

Ara Guekguezian, son of the Rev. Bernard and Mrs. Knar Guekguezian of

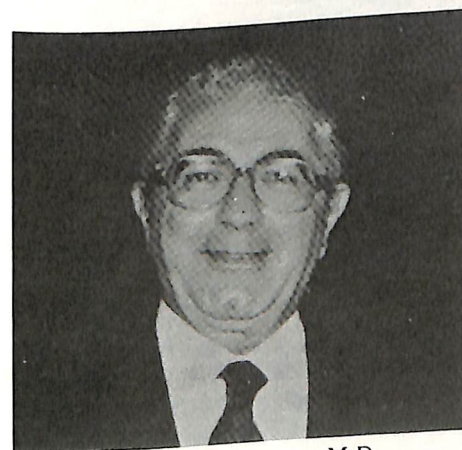


The Rev. Michael Khandjian with his wife, Katherine, right, and his mother, Marie Khandjian, left.

Fresno, Calif., graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J. with a Master of Divinity degree. He married Evelina Shahinian in June. Ara and his wife, who are currently residing in Teaneck, N.J., are looking forward to serving in a Presbyterian church in an urban setting on the East Coast.

We praise the Lord for these young and dedicated servants of the Servants of God and wish them a fruitful ministry in and through the Church of Jesus Christ.

DR. RENDEL LEVONIAN APPOINTED TO BOARD OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE



Rendel Levonian, M.D.

California's Governor George Deukmejian recently appointed Dr. Rendel Levonian as a member of the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance, Division of Medical Quality, for a

four-year term. The heavy responsibilities this appointment involves are the creation of a "library" for reference with five sections: Administration, Board, Division of Medical Quality, Division of Allied Health Professions and Division of Licensing as well as overseeing medical doctors on the quality of their professional services.

Dr. Levonian, the first Armenian to be appointed to the 12-member Board, is currently an Administrator at Pico Rivera Community Hospital and a member of the California Medical Association. He graduated from American University of Beirut, receiving his B.A. Degree in 1944 and his M.D. Degree in 1948. From 1950 to 1954, he became a resident surgeon in Bellevue Hospital, New York City; and in 1957, he opened his private practice.

Not only is Dr. Levonian highly successful in the field of medicine, but he has ventured into finances as well. He had engaged the task of helping found the Bank of Whittier, Calif. and is one of the prominent members of the Board of Directors.

With this distinguished assignment, Dr. Levonian adds yet another honorable position to his involvement in many community services, which also include being the Chairman of AMAA's Haigazian College Board of Trustees, a service he has devotedly and most capably rendered for the past twelve years.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America wishes to join these people in extending its congratulations and best wishes for a successful tenure in his position on the Board of Medical Quality Assurance.

LETTERS TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Service Master Serving Our Master

Dear Dr. Chopourian:

Yesterday Professor Gilbert Bilezikian of Wheaton College gave me a copy of your AMAA NEWS and called my attention to your editorial on page two. I was delighted to read your editorial. Our corporate objectives are very real with us, and it is upon this foundation and around this framework that we want to build our business. Enclosed is a copy of our ACTION paper covering the four objectives of Service-Master and a copy of my Living Philosophy.

One of our executives in ServiceMaster of Armenian descent was Mr. C. Dexter Bedrosian. He was President of our Materials Management Division and had served with our company for 22 years before his sudden death last week. Dexter was a very fine Christian leader who was loved by everyone. He will be greatly missed. Yesterday afternoon a beautiful memorial service was held for him.

K. T. Wessner
Chairman of the Board of
ServiceMaster Industries, Inc.
Downers Grove, Ill.

Moved to Say "Nice Going"

Dear Brother Chopourian:

I was extremely pleased and moved with your annual report of "A Year of Quiet Celebration!"

The growth and movement of the A.M.A.A. is unbelievable!

The ministry that this missionary organization has provided for the Armenians in the whole world is really an accomplishment. Everyone can be proud of that achievement, especially you as the Director.

I felt moved to say, nice going! May God continue to bless you as you give leadership to the A.M.A.A.

Harry Maghakian, Pastor
Valley Community Presbyterian Church
Minneapolis, MN

MRS. VARSENIG TOPOUZIAN A LADY WITH A HEART

In the August 1983 issue of the AMAA NEWS, we appealed to our readers that financial assistance was urgently needed for 15-year old Vicken's



Friends and neighbors of Mrs. Varsenig Topouzian who joined hands to help raise funds for emergency relief for Vicken.

medical expenses after shrapnels, due to the Beirut war, damaged both his legs resulting in amputation of his one leg.

One of the many who responded to our appeal was Mrs. Varsenig Topouzian of Dearborn, Mich., who we felt deserved special recognition for her sympathetic and creative response to our appeal by soliciting funds from her neighbors and friends. Through her unselfish efforts, she managed to accrue the sum of \$300 which she sent to the AMAA for Vicken's medical needs.

Our hearts are warmed and encouraged by people like Mrs. Topouzian and so many others who share even the little they might have to help another brother or sister in a difficult situation. This is what Christian compassion is all about—reaching out to those in need with whatever we have and whatever we can do.

VOLUNTEERS TEACH VBS IN HOLLYWOOD

Last July, a team of nine young volunteers, from the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Fresno, spent a week teaching Vacation Bible School in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA. Miss Joan Hensleit, the Christian Education Director of the Pilgrim Church, who was one of the volunteers, said, "The children that we taught and grew to love were the most open to God's Word and love than any other group of people I have ever worked with. By the end of the week, the enrollment grew to 57 children. Out of those, 35 children invited Jesus Christ into their hearts."

We commend the young missionaries of our Fresno churches and pray God that more youth from our churches will feel the calling to volunteer for similar

short-term missions services here in the U.S. and abroad.

The newly organized Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood is one of the Home Missions projects of the AMAA. This year, the AMAA will contribute \$12,000 towards the budget of this new church development. The church does not have its own building as yet, but under the capable leadership of its Pastor, the Rev. Apraham Chaparian, it is carrying on a most fruitful ministry among the Armenians in Hollywood who, for the most part, are recent immigrants from Soviet Armenia.

ARMENIAN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES PROGRAM AT FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and Fuller Theological Seminary are completing conversations regarding a plan for the education of persons looking forward to ministry within the context of Armenian Churches in North America. During the 1983-84 academic year, therefore, Fuller Theological Seminary will offer instruction oriented to ministry within the American-Armenian Churches. Dr. Krikor Haleblan, a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, has been called to teach History of Armenian Christianity as well as the Theology of Armenian Christianity.

The Rev. Vartkes Kassouni, Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA, has been appointed as the Field Supervisor for students seeking internship in the local Armenian Evangelical Churches.

HAIGAZIAN AUXILIARY OF FRESNO HOLDS BENEFIT BARBECUE

The Haigazian College Women's Auxiliary of Fresno held its Annual Barbecue on August 20 in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. George Bagdasarian's country residence in Fresno. Chairman for this event was Mrs. Deran Jamgochian, and Co-Chairman was Zaven Chooljian. Herbert Kezirian once again headed the barbecue team, and music was provided by the Dorian Ensemble. The Haigazian College Women's Auxiliary of Fresno is one of the most active support groups of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian College.

VISITORS AT THE HEADQUARTERS

Recently, we had the privilege of welcoming into our Headquarters several young friends of the AMAA, who included Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adourian of Toronto, Canada, and Dr. Raffi Balabanian of Aleppo, Syria. It was a pleasure to have fellowship with these committed Christian friends and believers in the AMAA.



Dr. Raffi Balabanian of Aleppo, Syria (middle), Dr. G.H. Chopourian and Mr. Albert Koundakjian. Dr. Balabanian is an active member of the Central Committee of the UAEC-NE.



Mr. Robert Adourian, right, with AMAA President, Dr. George Bezirgianian. Mr. Adourian, who is a devoted Christian Attorney, has been rendering valuable legal services to our supporting churches in Canada in their efforts to establish and incorporate an Armenian Missionary Association in Canada.

SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND ACKNOWLEDGES AMAA ASSISTANCE

Dr. Alexander Sulahian, Chairman of the progressive Society for the Armenian Blind in Aleppo, Syria, through a letter addressed to AMAA President, Dr. George Bezirgianian, provides a brief report on the activities of the Society, as well as expresses heartfelt appreciation

for the financial assistance the AMAA has been rendering to the Society. The Progressive Society for the Blind is an independent charitable organization which provides financial and moral assistance to the Armenian blind and their families in Syria. The services of the Society include provision of medical aid, summer camp possibilities, as well as cultural meetings and scholarship assistance to the blind and their children. The Society also administers a workshop which provides employment to the blind who manufacture brushes, chairs, tables and other handicrafts. The AMAA rejoices at the impressive work the Society is engaged in and praises God for the opportunity to contribute towards this worthy cause.

AMAA INSPIRES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Note: This is one of the many letters of thanks which have been received from grateful recipients of AMAA scholarship aid.

Dear Dr. Keuhnelian,

I am writing to you and the Scholarship Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association to thank you for your very generous scholarship gift.

I owe a lot to the AMAA because while other sources of financial aid have refused any help, the AMAA has offered support in the name of scholarship and in the name of love.

I am proud to attend school with the help of such a distinguished organization. It is clear that the AMAA acts in the spirit of Jesus' words in Matthew 25. Not only is the AMAA feeding the hungry, but also offering financial aid to students.

This is my senior year, and before I graduate and go on to graduate school, I plan to write my thesis in Anthropology on the "Nature of Gift-Giving in the AMAA." This reflects the inspiration that the AMAA has been to me.

Once more, thank you very much.

Selena Maranjian
Brown University
Providence, R.I.

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER HONORED BY SENATE GROUP

Senate President pro Tempore, David Roberti (D-Hollywood), presented Hratch Baliozian, Executive Director of AMAA's Armenian Evangelical Social Service

Center of Hollywood, CA, with a resolution commending him for contributions to the Armenian community.

Mr. Baliozian continues to provide excellent leadership to our Social Service Center which is rendering a variety of much-needed services to the Armenian Community in the Hollywood area with a qualified staff of eleven Social Workers and more than a dozen of dedicated volunteers.

MARTHA SARIAN RECOGNIZED FOR FAITHFUL MUSIC MINISTRY



Mrs. Martha Sarian

Mrs. Martha Sarian of Los Angeles, California, was recognized by the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood for her twenty years of faithful music ministry to the church. The recognition, which marked Mrs. Sarian's retirement as the church organist, was made during the Sunday Worship Service of the UACC, on June 26, 1983. The Reverends Vartkes Kassouni and Berj Djambazian shared in words of thanks and affection on behalf of the church and presented Mrs. Sarian with fitting mementos.

Mrs. Martha Sarian is the wife of Dr. Norair Sarian, a former Board Member and West Coast Vice President of the AMAA. Both, Dr. Norair and Mrs. Martha are committed Christians whose love for the Lord's work is best expressed by their whole-hearted involvement in local church as well as missions activities beyond their community.

We praise the Lord for the dedicated life and service of Martha, and pray that God will raise more people like her in our churches.

LOUIS KURKJIAN PROMOTED

Louis Kurkjian of Fullerton, California, Life Member of the AMAA and the long-time capable Treasurer of the Haigazian College Board of Trustees, has been promoted to Manager of the Data Processing Product Divisions Center at the Hughes Air Craft Company. Congratulations and best wishes for continued achievements and success.

ԼՈՒՐԵՐ ԻՐԱՆԻ ՀԱՅ ԱԻԵՏ. ԴԱՇՏԷՆ

Ծ.Խ.—Թեհրանի Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցւոյ «Սուրհան-դակ» Ամսաթերթի Օգոստոս, 1983 թիւով, շաբաթական տեղեկութիւններ տրուած էին Իրանի մեր եղբայրներուն հոգեւոր կեանքին ու գործունէութիւններուն մասին: Կը ներկայացնենք տրուած տեղեկութիւնները կարգ մը յապաւումներով:

ՎԵՐ. ԱՐՇ. ԵՐԻՅԵԱՆԻ ԶԵՌՆԱԴՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՊԱՇՏԱՍՈՒՆՔԸ

Ըստ նախապէս եղած յայտարարութեան, վեր. Արշ. Երիցեանի ձեռնադրութեան պաշտամունքը տեղի ունեցաւ Յուլիս 10, 1983 թիւին, ճաշից յետոյ ժամը 6-ին, Թեհրանի Հայ Աւետ. «Ս. Յովհաննէս» եկեղեցւում:

Պաշտամունքը ղեկավարեց վեր. Թ. Միքայէլեանը: Երգեհոնի մօտն էր պր. Համօ Երիցեանը: Համապատասխան հայերէն եւ պարսկերէն երգեր երգելուց յետոյ, ընթերցեց Աստուծոյ խօսքից՝ Եսայիա Մարգարէի Գրքից 2 1-8 եւ Եփես. Թղթից Դ 5-16 համարները, որպէս օրւայ ոգուն համապատասխան նիւթեր: Քարոզեցին Բաբբի Սամուէլ Էսահաղ եւ վեր. Միրզային:

Երկուսն էլ շեշտեցին հոգեւոր հովիւ պարտականութիւններն ու նրա վեհ ստանձնումը եւ այն, որ ժողովուրդը պէտք է թեւութիւնը կանգնի իր հովին: Սերտ համագործակցութիւնն է, որ ջերմ աղբրս կ'ունենայ Տիրոջ օրհնութեան եւ Ս. Հոգու առաջնորդութեան հետ, —ասացին նրանք:

Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցու Երգչախումբը երգեց 294րդ եւ 741րդ երգերը՝ Արեան տակ եւ Այսօր այգիին մէջ գործէ:

Ընթերցեց վեր. Արշաւրի կենսագրականը՝ հայերէն եւ պարսկերէն լեզուներով: Յետայնու եղան հարցեր, որոնց դրական պատասխան տւեց վեր. Երիցեանը եւ իր պատրաստակամութիւնը յայտնեց ձեռնադրելու եւ իր ծառայութիւնը մատուցելու Տիրոջը:

Տեղի ունեցաւ հանդիսաւոր ձեռնադրութիւնը տեղիս չորս աւետարանական եկեղեցիների հովիւների միջոցով:

Պաշտամունքի որոշ մասերը կատարեցին պարսկերէն լեզուով՝ ներկայ գտնուող բազմաթիւ ոչ-հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիների անդամ-անդամուհիներին հաղորդ դարձնելու համար:

Պաշտամունքից յետոյ ներկաները հրաւիրեցին «Գոհար» դպրոցի «Մուգոյեան» սրահը, ուր ասացին իրենց շնորհաւորանքները վեր. Երիցեանին եւ հիւրասիրեցին Կանանց Միութեան կողմից:

ԵՐԻՏԱՍԱՐԴԱՅ ՀԱՄԱԳՈՒՄԱՐ (ՕԳՈՍՏ. 7-15, 1983)

Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցու Երիտասարդաց համագումարը տեղի ունեցաւ Օգոստոս 7-15ին Աւետարանական Այգուում (Բաղը Բէշարաթ): Համագումարին մասնակցեցին 35 հոգի:

Համագումարի ընդհանուր պատասխանատուութիւնն ստանձնել էր վեր. Թադէոս Միքայէլեան սկսում էր առաւօտեան ժամը 7-ին, ճրագմարը՝ երեկոյեան ժամը 11-ին: Ծրագրի մաս էր կազմում անձնական աղօթքը, պաշտամունքը, օրւայ դասը՝ «Հոգեւոր Արթնութիւն» նիւթը, աղօթքի ժամը, երգի եւ փառաբանութեան ժամը, մտքերի փոխանակութիւնը եւ ֆիլմ

ու թատրոնի ներկայացումները: Ընդհանուր ծրագրերն յաջողութեամբ կատարեցին եւ Տիրոջ օրհնութեամբ շատ օրհնեալ ժամեր անցկացրին: Համագումարի գրականոր դասը՝ «Հոգեւոր Արթնութիւն» նիւթով, դասաւանդում էր վեր. Միքայէլեանը: Շատ խորիմաստ ու ազդեցիկ էր: Ստացանք շատ օգտակար դասեր՝ Հոգեւոր Արթնութեան կարիքի եւ այդ նպատակն իրականացնելու վերաբերեալ, նաեւ՝ գործնական բաւական յորդորներ՝ Հոգեւոր Արթնութիւն ունենալու համար:

Գեշերւայ ծրագրի ժամից օգտւելով, տեսանք «Ի՞նչ են փնտռում պատանիները» ֆիլմը, որ շատ ազդեցիկ եւ օգտակար եղաւ:

Փառք Աստուծոյ որ երբ Տէրը ներկայ է, լեցնում է այն վայրը խաղաղութեամբ, օրհնութեամբ եւ ուրախութեամբ:

Երեխաներից շատերը վկայում էին, թէ՛ այդ մէկ շաբաթւայ իւրաքանչիւր օրը իրենց կեանքի ամենաերջանիկ եւ անմոռանալի օրերից է եղել: Երեխաներից մէկն արտայայտւում էր. «Ես երբէք մենակ չեմ ճամբորդել եւ հիմա շատ եմ կարօտել ընտանիքիս, բայց չեմ ուզում այս օրերը վերջանան»: Եղբայրներ ու քոյրեր այդ գով ու գեղեցիկ այգու մէջ օրհնեալ օրեր անցկացրեցին Տիրոջ ներկայութեան մէջ. վկայեցին, սովորեցին, խօսեցին, խաղացին, իրենց ուխտերը նորոգեցին եւ Տիրոջ փառաբանեցին իրենց երգերով:

Նախ փառք ենք տալիս Տիրոջը, որ այս ծրագրերն անցան յաջող, եղան օրհնաբեր եւ Տէրը փառաւորեց: Շնորհակալ ենք բոլոր պատասխանատուներից, որոնք Տիրոջ շնորհով կառավարեցին այս համագումարը եւ արժեքրին այդ ժամերը Տիրոջ փառքի համար:

ՔԼԱՐԻՍ ԱՂԱՋԱՆԵԱՆ

ԸՆՏԱՆԵԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԳՈՒՄԱՐ

9 ՅՈՒԼԻՍ 31-ՕԳՈՍՏՈՍ 7, 1983)

Փառք Տիրոջը, որ, անցած տարիների նման, այս տարի եւս կարողացանք մասնակցել Աւետարանական Այգու Բաղը Բէշարաթ Ընտանեկան Համագումարին եւ ստանալ շատ օրհնութիւններ: Մասնակցողների թիւը՝ շուրջ 70 հոգի:

Այս տարի համագումարի ծրագիրը Ս. Յովհաննէս եկեղեցու Սարկաւազների կազմն էր դասաւորել:

Առաւօտեայ պաշտամունքները, որ սկսւում էին ժամը 8:30ին: Սուրբ Գրքի սերտողութիւն սկսւում էր առաւօտեան ժամը 9ին, առաջնորդութեամբ վեր. Միքայէլեանի: Նիւթն էր՝ Առաջին Թուղթ առ Յովհաննու:

Դասախօսութիւնները տեղի էին ունենում ճաշից յետոյ՝ ժամը 4:30-5:30ր: Իսկ գիշերները, ժամը 9-10, ունէինք հոգեւոր ժապաւէն, անձնական աղօթք եւ օրւայ մէջ ստացած օրհնութիւնների խոստովանութիւն կամ վկայութիւններ:

Այդ մէկ շաբաթւայ ընթացքում վայելեցինք Տիրոջ ներկայութիւնը: Կազդուրեցինք՝ մտքով, հոգով ու մարմնով եւ այդ բոլորի համար փառք ենք տալիս Տիրոջը, որ բոլոր ծրագիրն ու գործերը դասաւորեցին իր սուրբ կամքի համեմատ եւ ընթացան առանց որեւէ դժուարութեան:

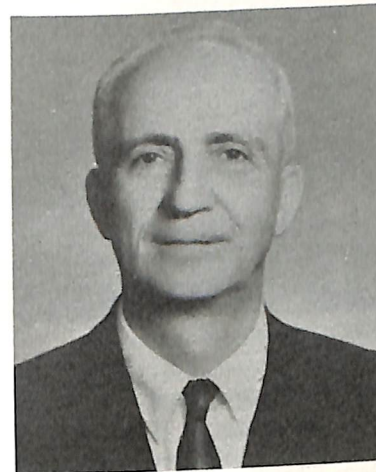
ԱՐՇ. ԵՐԻՅԵԱՆ

OBITUARIES

Sympathies extended: — The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.

THE REV. AVAK K. AVAKIAN



The Rev. Avak Avakian

A great man — husband, father, educator, minister of the Gospel, the Rev. Avak Kevork Avakian was called home of September 20, 1983 after a fruitful life in the service of God and his fellow Armenians.

The Rev. Avakian was born on November 15, 1904 in Hassan-Beyli (Amanos), Cilicia. At birth, his parents dedicated him to the Lord by promising God that he would be used in His ministry. The deportation of his family from their hometown in 1918 resulted in his parents and three sisters perishing in the desert. The Rev. Avakian miraculously survived the Turkish atrocities and ended up at St. Paul's College in Tarsus, where, on December 13, 1919, he committed himself to Jesus Christ. After his studies at St. Paul's, he attended the School of Religion in Athens from which he graduated in May of 1930.

On January 1, 1932, Rev. Avakian married Veronica Der Boghossian, and God blessed their union with three daughters and one son. Ordained by the Armenian Evangelical Union of the Near East in October 1950, the Rev. Avakian served the Lord actively and faithfully for 45 years in and through Armenian Evangelical churches, schools and communities in Athens, Greece; Kessab, Azaz, Aleppo and Damascus, Syria; and Beirut, Shtaura and Zahle in Lebanon.

In addition to his labors as educator and pastor, the Rev. Avakian also served as Secretary of the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School Educational Committee; Recording Secretary of the UAEC-NE and its Central Committee, as well as Secretary of the UAEC-NE Ordination Committee and member of the Armenian Evangelical Community Committee in Lebanon.

He retired on August 15, 1970 as the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Communities of Zahle and Shtaura in Lebanon and settled in Sarnia, Canada, where, along with his wife, he continued to serve his Lord while enjoying the love and affection of his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, as well as Armenian and local Canadian friends.

At the Memorial Service for Rev. Avakian held on September 23, 1983, the Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian recalled, "On the night of October 31, 1981 when Rev. Avakian was taken to the emergency ward of the local hospital due to chest pains, the attending nurse asked, 'Rev. Avak, are you afraid of dying?' Rev. Avakian responded saying, 'I do not have the word fear in my vocabulary. Whether I live or die, I am with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.' . . . Rev. Avakian was truly a devoted servant of his Master and a loyal member of the Armenian race."

The Rev. Mihran M. Koeroghlian, a close friend of Rev. Avakian, said of him: "I got to know Avak 54 years ago at the School of Religion in Athens, Greece. Probably, he was the liveliest and breeziest student in the school, dispelling all gloom and worry with his presence wherever he might be."

"Both he and his wife Veronica were so happy that after a full lifetime in the service of the Lord and his church, they were rewarded with adequate creature comfort in the latter years of their lives. Neither of them had enjoyed good health in late years. Hardly ever, however, did they make mention of it; but always looked at the positive side of life and praised God for the gift of life and the opportunity for service. His memory will be an inspiration to us who still are on the side of God's creation which is visible to the eye of the flesh. Well done, dear Avak! We'll see you soon!"

ALFORD CARLETON

Dr. Alford Carleton, a noted ecumenist, former missionary to the Middle East and close friend of the Armenian people, died on August 22, 1983 in Columbus, Ohio, at age 80.

Born in Albany, N.Y., Dr. Carleton graduated from Oberlin College and immediately began his career in overseas ministries as a missionary.

Dr. Carleton held important positions in the missions instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches in the U.S. He also served as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and as a Vice



The Rev. Dr. Alford Carleton

President of the United Board for Christian Education in Asia.

Dr. Carleton's connection with the Armenians began with his arrival in Aleppo in 1925 as a missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). Making himself a part of the Armenian Evangelical community, he first served as a missionary-teacher and later as the Director of Aleppo College. In one of his letters addressed to the Executive Director of the AMAA, Dr. Carleton wrote, "I got immense inspiration from the great group of Armenian leaders, pastors, doctors and teachers with whom I was in steady contact." He always spoke with deep respect and admiration about the Armenian Evangelical Church, which he called the first "native church."

Dr. David Stowe, the Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries, commented in part on Dr. Carleton, "I know of no one for whom Jesus Christ — not as a theological symbol but as a living person — was more real, more decisive more life-determining, more life-giving."

One of Dr. Carleton's former students, the Rev. Mihran M. Koeroghlian of Redlands, Calif. wrote, "The sad news carried me back in my mind's eye over a half century and across many thousands of miles to Aleppo College where I was admitted in 1926 as one of the first freshmen, and he was one of the first teachers. I kept in touch with Dr. Carleton through all these tempestuous fifty-seven years. In spite of his heavy schedule both on active duty in the mission fields and after his retirement he remembered us with other one-time students and friends whose num-

ber must have been enormous.

"Dr. Carleton was one of those faithful servants who heard the call, 'Whom shall I send; who will go for me?' and answered it saying, 'Here am I; send me.' He also heard the final call, 'Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

Dr. G.H. Chopourian, a close friend of Alford Carleton, in a telegram sent to Mrs. Carleton on behalf of the AMAA Board of Directors, in addition to conveying condolences, stated:

"Many of us in the Armenian community were touched and influenced by Dr. Carleton's enthusiasm and zeal for the perfect life in Christ and his fruitful educational efforts in the Middle East. With his passing, we have the distinct apprehension that we shall see the end of an era of missionary statesmanship in the region.

"We shall miss his close identification with our people but shall forever cherish his timely helpfulness to a helpless exile Armenian population in one of the saddest periods of their history."

LAURA F. KAPRIELIAN

Laura Foster Kaprielian, widow of Michael Gaspar Kaprielian, passed away in Fresno on July 12, 1983 at the age of 87.

Born in Aintab, she later settled in Fresno, California. Her father, the late Rev. Dr. M.G. Papazian, was Pastor of Fresno's Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church for twenty-five years. She was a member of the Church and long active in the Sunday School, Choir, Ladies' Aid and had served as a Deaconess.

Surviving are Mrs. Kaprielian's two sons, Roy Michael and Elmer Foster; a daughter, Helena Mary; five grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; two nieces and two nephews.

ROSE CHILINGARIAN DAVIDIAN

Funeral services were held on June 27, 1983 for Rose Chilingarian Davidian, who died June 24 at Lawrence General Hospital after a short illness.

Born in Arapkir, Armenia, Mrs. Davidian, 81, was an active member of Mount Ararat Congregational Church in Salem, New Hampshire.

She was the widow of Kachig Davidian and beloved mother to a son, Peter, and daughters, Elizabeth, Rose and Anita. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

HAIGANOUSH BOLOYAN

Haiganoush Boloyan, 76, beloved wife of Kazar Boloyan, entered her eternal rest at Rhode Island Hospital after an illness of over two years.

She was born in Harpoot, Armenia and lived in Cranston, Rhode Island for the past thirteen years.

Mrs. Boloyan was a member of the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church of Providence, R.I., and devoted supporter of the

Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Funeral services for Mrs. Boloyan were held on October 3, 1983 at the Euphrates Church, and burial was in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.

She was loving mother of Elise Thurber, Louise Janigian, Vartan, Michel and Jacques Boloyan; sister of Mrs. A. Oulachian; and grandmother of seven grandchildren.

MATILDA GIRIDLIAN



Mrs. Matilda Giridlian with her husband Levon

Matilda Giridlian, a faithful member of the AMAA, was born on March 30, 1898 in Banderma, Armenia and in 1907 first came to Pasadena, California, where she entered her eternal rest on May 15, 1983.

Along with her loving husband, Levon, Mrs. Giridlian served the Lord wholeheartedly and faithfully in and through the Cilicia Armenian Congregational Church of Pasadena, California. She taught Sunday School at the Cilicia Church for thirty-two years, where she was also very active in the Ladies' Aid as Treasurer and Secretary for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Leon Giridlian; son, Haig N. Giridlian; daughter, Nina Gedigian; brother, Ted Elmayan. She was blessed with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and was loved by them and those who knew her.

GLADYS BOGHOSSIAN

Submitted by: The Rev. Karl V. Avakian
Gladys Boghossian was born to Dr. Armenak and Mrs. Rebecca Markarian of Adana, Turkey, in 1896. She was a graduate of the Girls College of Brousa, Turkey.

In 1920, Gladys's father, Dr. Armenak Markarian, was assassinated along with other Armenian community leaders in Cilicia by the Kemalist Turks. Thereafter, Gladys devoted herself to serving the thousands of Armenian children orphaned during the Genocide of 1915. She worked at the Near East Relief Orphanage in Konia. In 1922, Gladys played an important role in the transfer of the orphanage to Beirut, Lebanon. Gladys had a special love for orphans, serving them with selfless devotion.

In 1957, Gladys married Missak Boghossian and settled in New Jersey. In 1959, she moved to the Home for the Armenian Aged of Emerson, working in different capacities



Mrs. Gladys Boghossian

for many years until her retirement. She died at the Armenian Home on October 14, 1983.

Gladys was a loving and caring person. She spent her entire life serving, with enthusiasm, her family and people.

She will be greatly missed by her brother, Dr. Yervant Markarian of Los Angeles, Calif.; her nephews; relatives and all those who had the opportunity of knowing and enjoying her friendship.

ROBINSON KEYISHIAN

Robinson Keyishian, a faithful supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, passed away on August 13, 1983. His sudden death saddened not only his family but many of his friends and colleagues.

He came to this country in 1922 with his mother, Doudou, and his sister, Perlanty, joining his brother, John, and sister, Mary, who had come the year before. After their schooling, he and his brother John started an oriental rug importing business in 1927. Through hard work and patience, they built a name for themselves second to none throughout the United States.

Robinson was also a fine painter, who spent much of his spare time at his easel. His favorite subject was his home village of Chomaklou and Mount Ararat.

In 1935, he married Ann Manooshian and had two children. His wife passed away in 1977.



Mr. Robinson Keyishian

For over fifty years, Robinson was one of the leading members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. In the Church's Tribute to him, it was said, "He loved his Church with a passion, and his devotion to 'duty' was unequalled." He never failed to answer the call. He served as Treasurer with distinction, Chairman of the Board of Trus-

tees, often a member of the Boards of Trustees or Deacons, and on many other committees in the Church. His generosity was endless and his love for fellowmen boundless; he helped quietly, caringly and with compassion.

Robinson is survived by his son, Robert; daughter, Janet; brother, John; and many nephews and nieces.

GARABED MERJANIAN



Dr. Garabed Merjanian

Dr. Garabed Merjanian was born to Mr. Panos and Mrs. Mariam Merjanian of Marash on June 18, 1903. Dr. Merjanian grew up in the spiritual atmosphere of a Christian home and under the influence of devoted evangelical parents.

He miraculously survived the Genocide of 1915 and settled in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1926, he married Eftimia Topalian. Dr. Merjanian was an exemplary husband and a devoted Christian father. He could always witness and say, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

Although he was a dentist by profession, he was more interested in the souls of his patients. Throughout his life, therefore, he became a faithful witness to Christ and preached the Good News of salvation in many countries and communities.

Dr. Merjanian is survived by his wife, Eftimia; daughters, Mrs. Karekin (Knar) Sagharian, Mrs. Azad (Hasmig) Halebian and Mrs. Hagop (Evynie) Janbazian; son, Dr. Stepan Merjanian; and three brothers, four sisters, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MOSES H. NAHIGIAN

Moses Nahigian, an active participant in the work of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, entered his eternal rest on July 18, 1983 at the age of ninety-two.

He was born in Husenig, Harpoot, on August 3, 1890. In 1911, Moses graduated from Euphrates College. Since he had done so well in his courses there, he was asked to teach at the College, but Moses decided instead to come to the United States that same year and settled in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He is one of the original founders of the Armenian Nursing Home in Jamaica Plain, Mass. and found the land on which the Nursing Home was built.

As Commander of the U.S. Army Armenian Regiment, he went to Washington in



Mr. Moses H. Nahigian

1922 to try to secure Armenian land rights in Armenia with U.S. support.

Moses graduated from the Suffolk Law School in 1926 and went into real estate. That same year, he and Rose Ashjian were married and later had three children.

Semi-retired, he still gave three hours of his time daily to the work of the Moses H. Nahigian & Sons Insurance Agency and was active as an Honorary Deacon for Life at the First Armenian Church of Belmont, Mass., where he had been a faithful member of many years.

Mr. Nahigian was devoted husband of the late Rose; father of Marguerite Sarkisian, John and Russell Nahigian; brother of Beatrice Ahlijian and the late Hampartoum, Avedis and Hagop Nahigian, Sara Quntouney, Haiganoush Semonian, Armenoush Vartabedian, Esther Avedisian and step-brother of George and Payloun Krikorian. He is also survived by several grandchildren.

AROUSIAG YERANIAN

Arousiag was born to the Rev. Vartan and Mrs. Nevart Yeranian in Deort Yol, Turkey. She came to the United States with her family in 1932 and settled in New Haven and later in Hartford, Connecticut. She was a member of the First Church of Christ of New Britain, CT. During her last years, due to her handicap, she was living with her sister, Araxie, who lovingly and patiently took care of her until her death on July 20, 1983.

She is survived by her sisters, Betty Halebian and Araxie Yeranian.

GEORGE HARTUNIAN

The untimely death of George Hartunian, a prominent and respected member of the Armenian Community, on July 23, 1983 came as a shock to family, relatives and friends.

George, the eldest of four children born to Yester and Vagarshag Hartunian, was born on July 30, 1915. He graduated from Jefferson High School in the Los Angeles area, where he excelled in football. His love for sports never diminished, and his sense of fair play was extended into his daily life.

In January 1941, he was selected in the first conscription and served in the U.S. Army for five years.

George was an active, life-long member of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church and served the Church in many responsible positions throughout the years.



Mr. George Hartunian

Before his untimely death he was serving on the Church Council and was Chairman of the "Victory Banquet" for the recently completed Church renovation. From its inception in 1977 through 1980, George served as the Treasurer of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center, which is under the auspices of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Interment was held at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, with services being conducted by the Rev. Edward Tovmassian and hymns beautifully presented by Soloist Arthur Tookoyan and members of the Immanuel Church Choir. There were over four hundred mourners.

Surviving are his wife, Lillian; sisters, Rose Hartunian, Roxie Eomurian; brother-in-law, Walter; their child, Cristina Arklin; her husband, Phillip; and two nephews and a gran-niece.

GEORGE N. NAZARIAN



Mr. George N. Nazarian

George N. Nazarian, 51, died of cancer at his home in Potomac, Maryland, on Sunday, August 14, 1983.

Mr. Nazarian was born in Washington, D.C. and lived there until his marriage to the former June B. Babigan in 1958. He attended Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and was in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1954.

He was the son of the late George Nazarian, founder of Nazarian Brothers oriental rug store in Georgetown, and was associated with the firm for a number of years. Mr. Nazarian was also associated with Trailmobile Corporation and Central GMC in their sales divisions where he won several sales awards, including "Salesman of the Year." He was also connected with Cary Limousine Co. prior to his death.

George's character can best be described by the following words from a letter written to his wife by one of his co-workers:

George had many fine qualities, but I think one of the most outstanding was his fine relations with people. Normally, with an organization like ours, there is conflict between sales personnel and those involved with parts and service. George always had parts and service people bending over backwards to please him and his customers, and it was evident that the friends he made always remained his friends. His interest in people was sincere and genuine. He had compassion for his customers, his colleagues and his fellow man. George was enthusiastic about his work and it was this enthusiasm and excitement that made him strive harder and made others in the company persevere to achieve their goals.

Funeral services were held on August 17, 1983 in Washington with Dr. Donzel Wildey of the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church officiating.

Survivors include his wife, June Babigan Nazarian; two sons, Raymond and Mark; and one daughter, Noreen, all of Potomac; and his mother, Louise Nazarian, and sister, Elsie Nazarian, both of Washington, D.C.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

*Mrs. Toorvanda Arakelian
Peabody, MA
*Mr. Ohanner Aseourian
*Mrs. Eldona Boyajian
Fresno, CA
Dr. Hampartzoum Kelikian
Chicago, IL
Mr. Khacher Khacherian
Buenos Aires, Argentina
*Mr. Haigaz Krikorian
Fresno, CA
*Mr. Frank Paboojian
Mrs. Araxy Shumdangian
Fresno, CA
*Mrs. Rose Vaznaian
Amherst, MA
*Julia (Kohar) Mesrobian
Providence, RI 1982
*Mr. Hagop (Jack) Barsamian
Manhasset, NY April 23, 1983
Mrs. Mariam Chalikian
Upper Darby, PA May 2, 1983
*Mrs. Matilda Giridlian
Altadena, CA May 15, 1983
Berjouhi Sherene
Pasadena, CA May 21, 1983
*Mrs. Mary Chapian
Flushing, NY June, 1983
Elmas Asdikian
June 4, 1983
*Mr. George Daorian
Fresno, CA June 12, 1983
Mr. Floyd Lee Nahigian
El Cerrito, CA June 12, 1983
*Mrs. Virginia Daniels
Cliffside Park, NJ June 17, 1983

*Mrs. Sara (Serpouhie) Casparian
Inglewood, CA June 23, 1983
Mrs. Rose Davidian
Lawrence, MA June 24, 1983
Mr. Harry Jacobs
Fresno, CA July 2, 1983
Mrs. Sara DeGraff
California July 5, 1983
*Mrs. Christina Churukian July 8, 1983
Mrs. Haigouhi Zoolalian
Monrovia, CA July 9, 1983
*Mrs. Laura Kaprielian
Fresno, CA July 12, 1983
Mr. Paul Kazarosian
Watertown, MA July 15, 1983
*Mrs. Mary Aved
Pasadena, CA July 18, 1983
*Mr. Moses H. Nahigian
Newtonville, MA July 18, 1983
*Arousiag Yeranjan
Newington, CT July 20, 1983
Mr. George Hartunian
Los Angeles, CA July 23, 1983
Mrs. Mabel Magarian
Vallejo, CA July 31, 1983
*Mr. Harutune Poladian
Phoenix, AZ Aug. 2, 1983
Mrs. Arshalouis Bedrosian Aug. 5, 1983
*Mr. Aram H. Minnetian
Westwood, NJ Aug. 6, 1983
Dr. Viken Sassouni
Mt. Lebanon, PA Aug. 7, 1983
Mrs. Sarah (Zarouhi) Avesian
Flint, MI Aug. 10, 1983
*Mr. Robinson Keyishian
Flushing, NY Aug. 13, 1983
*Dr. Garabed Merjanian
Los Angeles, CA Aug. 13, 1983
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DECEMBER: THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE A GIFT OF SECURITIES

December is the month when we take time out to review our financial situation and compare our last year's earnings and expenses to find out where we stand.

Then too, December is a good time to consider our year-end giving to charitable organizations. A gift given before December 31st qualifies for immediate benefits and may save hundreds of dollars on our taxable income. Furthermore, in many cases, through our year-end giving, we may be able to give more thus helping ourselves and our favorite charity.

Below is an explanation about the tax benefits involved in giving securities (bonds, stocks, mutual funds) before December 31st.

STOCKS GAINING POPULARITY AS GIFTS

Statistics show that more than 33 million Americans own securities. Maybe this is why more and more people are preferring to donate stocks or bonds instead of cash to charitable organizations.

The fact that perfectly good stocks or bonds are donated puzzles many people. Why donate a stock with a great performance record and growth potential? The answer, interestingly enough, is that people donate such a stock because the stock has increased in value so much that they "cannot afford" to sell it, for tax considerations.

INCREASE IN VALUE OF STOCKS CREATES A DILEMMA

Of course, people can always sell a stock that has grown and enjoy their profit. But other people will be in a tax bracket where the big increase in their stock value leaves them in a dilemma. If

they sell their stocks, a substantial part of the capital gain will go to Uncle Sam. So they hold onto it and wonder what to do. Stock brokers describe such persons owning stocks with large capital appreciation as being "locked in". One of the most popular and favorable ways of solving a "locked in" problem is giving stocks as outright gifts to charitable organizations and receive a substantial tax benefit. Of course, it doesn't make sense to give merely to avoid paying taxes. But when you have a strong motivation to give regardless of tax considerations, then the "successful" stock is a wonderful way to give **more** at **less** cost. Such giving avoids paying taxes on the capital gain and gives you the benefit of deducting the entire sale proceeds as a charitable contribution. This helps reduce your overall taxes.

DECEMBER IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR GIFTS OF STOCKS

Understandably enough, many of the gifts of stocks are given near the end of the year. Most people file their taxes on a calendar-year basis and not until December do they know how the year is going to come out for them financially. So they sit down and figure out their financial status even though they will not pay their taxes until April 15. They figure out their financial status, however, while there is still time to do something about it. They estimate their taxes and often discover that they can make additional charitable gifts that will cost them less if given in December than in January. The gifts in stocks given before the end of the calendar year cut taxes in two ways: They make the increase of value irrelevant, and they provide a

considerable deduction as a charitable gift.

SHOULD YOU GIVE OUTRIGHT STOCKS OR SELL AND GIVE CASH?

If your stocks have increased in value, you should give the stocks and let the receiving institution sell them. If you sell your stocks and then give the proceeds, you get to deduct the money gift as a charitable contribution, **but you have to pay taxes on the increased value of your stock.**

HOW TO GIVE STOCKS

If your stock is worth less than the original cost, ask your broker to sell it and give the proceeds to your preferred charity. If the stock is worth more than the original cost, then transfer the stock to the organization and get a receipt for the shares you transfer. Follow these procedures:

1. Ask your broker to transfer the stock certificate into the name of an organization.

2. Complete the stock certificate on the reverse side, sign it exactly as your name appears on the face of the stock certificate - sign in the presence of your broker or banker.

3. Or, send unsigned stock certificate in one envelope and send an "assignment" form signed by you in the presence of your broker or banker. Mail this "assignment" form in another envelope.

4. Or, write to your preferred charity for any help you may need in transferring stock.

5. Above all, make sure your stock certificate reaches the offices of your preferred charity no later than December 31, 1983.

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